Health Improvement Team (HIT) call – 8/15/2013

Topic of Call: The Navigation of Affordable Coverage

Presenters: Emily Kinsella, Women's Wellness Connection

Rachel Foster, Salud Family Health Centers

Virginia Hallagin, Kit Carson Health and Human Services Patricia Tabbilos, Asian Pacific Development Center

Jesse Lopez, Aurora Coverage Assistance Network, Aurora Mental Health

Handouts: Refer to handout for additional information and resources

Emily Kinsella, Women's Wellness Connection

Ms. Kinsella shared a few hand-outs. The first, an informal document which was created by WWC to compile information on health care reform as it affects WWC. WWC plans to continue updating and sharing this information as more is learned.

Ms. Kinsella also shared tables from the Colorado Health Institute that provides estimates by county and statewide of:

- Rates of uninsured adults (2010 data)
- Adults eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid (2010 data)
- Uninsured Colorado adults by FPL and family status, who will be newly eligible for Medicaid

Rachel Foster, Salud Family Health Centers

Ms. Foster spoke about the health care expansion and how this will impact the Salud Family Health Centers. Salud is a federally qualified health care center located in the northeast region of the State. There are currently 9 clinic locations with 18 health centers. Ms. Foster estimates of their current population, 18,000 clients will be newly eligible for Medicaid (< 138% FPL). 8,000 clients (188% to 400% FPL) will qualify for tax subsidies.

Salud has received a grant from Connect for Health, and will be hiring Health Coverage Guides. Staff hired will be certified through a 40 hour training program.

In addition, Salud has received funding from HRSA to hire enrollment specialists. The primary duties of the HRSA funded specialists are to enroll clients into Medicaid and CHP+.

It is the intention of Salud to streamline enrollment into the health exchange program during the financial intake visit. Clients will be educated on all available programs. Applications for the insurance exchanges and Medicaid Expansion will be submitted beginning October 1, 2013 with benefits beginning on January 1, 2014. Salud will focus primarily on entry into Medicaid and CHP+.

Ms. Foster asked the following questions to WWC:

- 1) Who will be eligible for WWC under health care reform?
- 2) What about the lag time to enrollment? Will women still be eligible during this time?
- 3) Will women still be eligible for the WWC program if they "opt out?"
- 4) Will WWC still cover diagnostics if health exchange deductibles are too high? What will be considered "under-insured?"

Virginia ("Ginny") Hallagin, Kit Carson Health and Human Services (Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Lincoln County)

Kit Carson is a Connect for Health Colorado Assistance Site, and their work as a "market place for businesses and individuals." Ms. Hallagin provided an overview of their work in assisting applicants to fill out the health exchange application. Kit Carson anticipates 800 people will be eligible, and it will take about 60-90 minutes to complete the application. Staff will provide an overview of each plan and the premiums. In addition, laptops will be available during business hours, in the evening and weekend events. The small business requirements are being delayed until 1/1/15. The limit on out-of-pocket expense will not be implemented until 2015.

Patricia Tabbilos, Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC)

Ms. Tabbilos provided an overview of the 40 hour training requirements to become a health coverage guide, and an overview of Connect for Health Colorado.

Jesse Lopez, Connect for Health – Aurora Health Assistance Network

Mr. Lopez echoed the Connect for Health Colorado message. In Aurora, Aurora Mental Health received a large grant to provide outreach in the community. In partnership with APDC, MCPN and others, the Aurora Health Assistance Network will assist community members to enroll in insurance exchange programs. Mr. Lopez can be contacted at 303-617-2328 or by email at jesselopez@aumhc.org.

Q&A

Organizations receiving Connect for Health Colorado grants will provide assistance to everyone, and the organizations cannot require clients to be patients of their clinics.

Emily Kinsella, Women's Wellness Connection

Ms. Kinsella shared projects WWC is working on related to health care reform. The first is that the WWC team will be gathering for a retreat in September to specifically look at how health care reform may affect WWC and to do some strategic planning for WWC. Dawn Joyce, who is an expert on health care reform at CDPHE, will be joining the retreat. Second is a health care reform readiness survey that will be sent to all WWC agencies to help WWC understand where agencies are on the spectrum of readiness for health care reform and what resources are available to WWC agencies. Lastly, WWC will be piloting a care coordination project. The plan would be for the WWC pilot agencies to help women who otherwise would be eligible for WWC, except they also appear to be eligible for another funding source (such as Medicaid), get enrolled in that other funding source and then to help case manage the client through the

system to complete her breast and cervical screenings. The screenings would be paid by another funding source, but WWC would reimburse the agency for the care coordination. The hope is to pilot this project at two WWC agencies. This type of care coordination still meets the CDC requirement that WWC spend 60% of funds on services that can directly be tied to individual women.

Ms. Kinsella welcomes your thoughts and questions on how health care reform will affect WWC, and more specifically, thoughts on options for how WWC might change its model to adapt to health care reform. She may be contacted at 303-692-2511 or by email at Emily.kinsella@state.co.us.